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HOUSEKEEPERS' CHAT

Monday, February 27, 1933.

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

Subject: "Time Saving." Information from the Bureau of Home Economics, U.S.D.A.

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The Jack of all trades has come into his own again. The man of the house is becoming the painter, the plumber, the carpenter and general repair man of his home, just as he was in pioneer days. And his wife, who used to depend on the laundryman, the cleaner or the delicatessen store, is doing her own washing perhaps or her own dressmaking and cleaning and she's concocting delicious dishes out of low-cost foods. We're all believers again in that good old saying about the penny saved.

But while we're saving pennies, we need to consider saving time and strength also. The more jobs a woman has to do, the more efficient she needs to be. A few minutes saved on this job and a few minutes saved on that count up during the day and bring more accomplishment with less effort. You can make almost any household job easier if you put some thought on it -- whether it's cleaning the kitchen floor, baking bread, doing the laundry or bathing the baby.

One sure way to save time on any household job is to assemble your equipment at one convenient spot. Give your helpers a home all together near the place where they work instead of having them scattered all over the house. The iron near the ironing board, the work basket near the sewing machine, the soap and bluing near the laundry tubs and so forth. Centralize your tools at the place where you're going to use them.

Wash day will be much less tiresome and you'll do the laundry easier and better if you have all your laundry equipment organized for convenience. If you have a laundry room in your home, of course, that's ideal. Your wash tubs, your mechanical washing machine, your laundry table, clothes basket, ironing board and so on will all be together in that one room. To make the laundry even more convenient, ask the man of the house to put up some handy shelves near the tubs where you can keep your soap, soap flakes, starch, bluing and other laundry supplies. One job that takes time on wash day is removing stains before clothes go into the tub. Since soap sets many stains this is necessary for saving your clothes and linens. A friend of mine has directions for removing different stains written on cards and tacked up on her laundry wall where she can refer to them at a glance. She has given these cards a coat of shellac to protect them from the steam in the laundry. Then, over her laundry table she has a shelf of stain removal supplies. Here she keeps bottles of bleach, grease solvents, and other chemicals to take out common stains. The shelf also holds bowls, blotting paper, an eye dropper for applying the chemicals and some soft clean cloths. She saves a lot of time by having the directions for removing stains right before her eyes and the supplies for the job within reach of her hand.

Near the ironing board in your laundry, you'll want another handy shelf to hold your iron, your pressing cloths, your paraffin bag and perhaps a small brush. Keep your iron from rust and dust by covering it with a canton flannel bag when it is not in use.

If you do your washing in your kitchen or even in your bathroom, you can still save yourself a good deal of time by assembling your laundry equipment. Have a laundry corner where you keep all laundry supplies.

Most of us will be starting our spring sewing and dressmaking soon. So now is the time to organize a home sewing center. Many a woman wears herself to a frazzle over dressmaking just because her equipment is scattered and she has to run all over the house to use it. She cuts the dress on the dining room table, runs upstairs to use the sewing machine, hurries downstairs again to press on the ironing board and so on. Why not centralize your sewing equipment? Why not dedicate a corner of your bedroom or even your living room or kitchen to sewing? In this corner you will have your work table, your sewing machine, your mending basket, your long mirror, an ironing board and shelves to hold small supplies like thread, needles, scissors, tape measure, fashion magazines and so on. When this sewing corner is not in use, you can conceal it by a decorative screen made by the man of the house.

Cleaning is another job that gets done in much less time if the cleaning tools and supplies are kept in one handy central place. A cleaning closet to hold brooms, mops, the vacuum cleaner, dust cloths, whisk brooms, pails, scouring powder, soap and furniture polish is an institution that should belong in every home. If you have a cleaning closet both upstairs and down you'll save yourself many steps. A cleaning kit made from a grape basket or a box with a handle is a handy thing to carry around as you work. Partition off one side of the basket to hold bottles of cleaning solutions. The remaining space in the basket you can use for brushes, cloths, and sponges. With this little kit on your arm you'll have all the cleaning supplies you need right at hand. It will save you from running back and forth for soap, kerosene, cleaning powder, or something else.

As for the kitchen -- but that's a whole story in itself. Some other day we'll go into the kitchen and centralize the equipment there. Just now we'd better be discussing our economy menu. The menu today features that old-fashioned favorite combination -- frankfurters and sauerkraut. Browned frankfurters served with catsup; then, Savory sauerkraut; Mashed potatoes; Rye bread and butter; and, for dessert, Baked or broiled canned peach halves.

Savory sauerkraut is different and very easy to prepare. You need only three ingredients for it:

1/4 cup of butter or other fat
1 quart of sauerkraut, and
1/4 teaspoon of celery seed or caraway seed.

Heat the fat in a skillet until golden brown. Then add the sauerkraut and the seasoning. Mix well using a fork to separate the kraut. Cover and cook for five minutes. Serve hot.

Tomorrow: A clinic for clothes.

